lanise Indian tea through Tea Board marketing symbol, and (iv) support to various foreign brands containing Indian tea. A part of the expenditure incurred by importers for promotional campaigns is met from Tea Board's budget. Tea Board has also undertaken Darjeeling and Assam Logo Campaign in U.K.

Leather Exports

*590. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM-
CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total volume and value of leather exports as on 1st April, 1994;

(b) the countries to which leather goods are exported; and

(c) the first five States in India which produce leather?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Exports of Leather and Leather Products during the year 1993-94 as provisionally estimated amounts to Rs. 4234. 95 Crores. The exports are primarily to Germany, USA, UK, Italy; France, and CIS countries. Some other countries to which our leather and leather products are exported include the Netherlands, Australia, Spain, Japan; Portugal, Belgium, Korea etc.

(c) Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh are the five major states producing leather in India.

False claims before consumer redressal fora

*591. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Indian Express (Business Express) of April, 22, 1994 under the caption, 'Frivolous claims hit consumers' cause';

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard;

(c) the number of cases in which consumers have been given relief with the enforcement of Consumers' Protection Act and the amount paid to them during the year 1993 and so far in 1994;

(d) whether complaints for filing false/bogus claims by the consumers before the redressal fora have come to Government's notice;

(e) if so, the number and details of such cases;

(f) what action Government have taken against such unscrupulous persons; and

(g) what steps Government have taken to protect and help the genuine consumers from unnecessary harassment caused to them by the authorities in finalising and expediting their claims?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the said article, the author has described the nature of frivolous complaints which are being filed in the consumer courts established under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and has quoted some of the decision given by the courts against filing such complaints.

(c) As per information available with the Central Government, out of 2,21,131 cases decided in the District Fora, 1.06,281 cases have gone in favour of consumers. Similarly, in the State Commissions, 3,321 complaints and 3,987 appeals have gone in favour of consumers out of 7,496 complaints and 10,014 appeals decided so far. The Government in the Ministry of Civil Supplies Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution does not compile information in respect of amount paid to the consumers by the consumer courts.

(d) and (e) The Central Government in the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution does not complie sulh type of information.

(f) The Government has already amended the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 to provide for imposing a fine not exceeding Rs. 10,000/- on consumers who file such frivolous or vexatious complaints. In case the complainant does not pay such fines, the Act provides for imprisonment or fine or both.

(g) The rules framed under Consumer Protection Act, 1986 provide for speedy disposal of the case. A case is to be decided within 90 days if it does not require testing/analysis and within 150 days if it requires testing/analysis of the goods. Continuous efforts are being made to cut short delays in disposing of the cases through reviews, meetings, etc. at the level of Central/State Governments and the National Commission.

1994 National Trade Estimate report on Foreign Trade Barriers

*592. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the 1994 National Trade Estimate Report on foreign trade barriers released here by the Office of the US Trade representative wherein concern was expressed on India's unwillingness to give access for textile products from around the world; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government and steps taken to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India does not have any unfair trade practices. It has consistently been the policy of Government that there should not be unilateral judgement or action on trade matters and that these should be resolved multilaterally.

Plan Outlay for Tamil Nadu on Education

*593. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN:

SHRI MISA R. GANESAN:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the plan outlay to Tamil Nadu for education;

(b) whether Government propose to set up new industrial estates in backward areas of the State;

(c) if so, what is the quantum of funds allocated for the same; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) An outlay of Rs. 102.15 crores has been approved for education in Tamil Nadu's Annual Plan 1994-95.

(b) to (d) The Government have approved the setting up of three Growth Centres in the backward areas of Tamil Nadu, the details of which are given below;—

Name of the Growth Centre	Name of the District	Amount released till 31-3-94 (Rs. in lakhs
1. Erode	Periyar	150.00
2. Parangudi-Thirunarugal Block . . .	Thanjavur	..
3. Tirunelveli (Gangai Kondan Nanur Block)	Tirunelveli-Kattabomman	200.00